

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated April 23, 2003, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 9, 10, 12-14, 18, 20, 21, 26 and 27 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonti et al. in view of Friedmann et al. Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 15-17, 19, 23-25, and 28-30 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonti et al. in view of Friedmann et al. and further in view of Buhrmann et al. Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonti et al. in view of Friedmann et al. and further in view of Hagar et al.

By the present response, Applicants have amended claims 1-13, 17-21, 24, 26 and 27 to further clarify the invention. Moreover, Applicants have submitted new claims 31-49 for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1-49 remain pending in the present application.

35 USC §103 rejections

Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 10, 12-14, 18, 20, 21, 26 and 27 have been previously rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonti et al. in view of Friedmann et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As noted in Applicants' previous Amendment, Sonti et al. discloses a method for allowing subscribers of a telecommunications network to change easily between sets of desired features. A home location register stores multiple profiles of all subscribers within its serving region along with an active profile number field indicating a list of features currently available to each subscriber. A subscriber can

prompt a change of profile containing a different set of features for different users of the mobile station or for different times of day or geographic areas.

Friedmann et al. discloses a universal radio for use in various cellular communication systems that has adjustable communication parameters such that the radio can communicate in different DS or FH type systems as well as DS-FH hybrid type systems which employ both DS and FH spread spectrum techniques. The radio is included in a mobile terminal and/or base station and can be adjusted by the user to employ communication parameters relating to various different cellular communication systems.

Regarding claims 1, 18, 26, 27, and new claims 31-35, Applicants submit that neither Sonti et al. nor Friedmann et al., taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the limitations in the combination of these claims of, inter alia, a method or apparatus for automatically configuring communication services for a subscriber within a communication system that includes sensing an external parameter, choosing for the particular subscriber, a configuration of communication services from a plurality of configurations available within the communication system, using the chosen configuration to define a current configuration of communication services available to the subscriber where the choosing of a configuration of communication services is performed automatically in dependence on the sensed external parameter meeting a pre-defined criterion definable by the subscriber or a service provider of the communication system, determining if the sensed external parameter relates to any forbidden configurations of communication services, or choosing for the particular subscriber, a configuration of communication services not forbidden from a plurality of configurations. The

Examiner again asserts that Sonti et al. discloses sensing an external parameter at col. 8, lines 25-29 of Sonti et al. However, as noted in Applicants' previous Amendment, this portion of Sonti et al. merely discloses that a subscriber whose mobile station has already been registered may select a new profile by simply dialing a profile number followed by a personal identification number and a new profile number. This is not sensing an external parameter as recited in the claims of the present application. In Sonti et al. the subscriber must manually dial in information to change a profile. Manually dialing in is not sensing. This manual selection as disclosed in Sonti et al. teaches away from the claimed sensing as recited in the present invention.

Moreover, Applicants assert that none of the cited references disclose or suggest choosing for the particular subscriber, a configuration of communication services from a plurality of configurations where the choosing is performed automatically in dependence on the sensed external parameter meeting a pre-defined criterion definable by the subscriber or a service provider of the communication system, as recited in the claims of the present application. The Examiner admits that Sonti et al. fails to disclose or suggest choosing being automatically performed. The Examiner asserts that Friedmann et al. discloses configuration choosing is automatically performed at col. 3, lines 51-58. However, this portion of Friedmann et al. (Summary of the Invention) discloses that a control circuit automatically selects a set of communication parameters based on signals received by the adjustable radio. Applicants are unsure where this is supported in the disclosure of Friedmann et al. The term "control circuit" is nowhere disclosed in Friedmann et al except in reference to the "timing control circuit 316". This timing

control circuit does not do any selection of parameters. Further, the term "automatically" is only mentioned in Friedmann et al. in this and one other paragraph in the Summary. Applicants assume that this portion of Friedmann et al. refers to the microprocessor 26 reconfiguring the communication parameters of the radio in response to receiving signal strength (RSSI) signals from RF signal strength circuits 374a-374c (col. 23, lines 14-38, Fig. 14). However, this is not choosing automatically a configuration of communication services from a plurality of configurations available within the communication system and related to the particular subscriber in dependence on the sensed external parameter meeting a pre-defined criterion definable by a subscriber or a service provider of the communication system or determining if the sensed external parameter relates to any forbidden configurations of communication services, or choosing for a particular subscriber, a configuration of communication services not forbidden from a plurality of configurations, as recited in the claims of the present application. Friedmann et al. discloses measuring the RSSI of each band, comparing them, checking a RSSI threshold, and using the band with the greatest RSSI if it exceeds the threshold. The parameters in Friedmann are all related to different cellular communication systems (see col. 7, lines 20-29), and are not configurations related to the particular subscriber. Moreover, in Friedmann et al. the threshold parameter is a fixed value (see col. 24, lines 53-55), and is not a pre-defined criterion definable by a subscriber or a service provider of the communication system, as recited in the claims of the present invention.

Regarding claims 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12-14, 20 and 21, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 18 and, therefore,

are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding these independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that neither Sonti et al. nor Friedmann et al., taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 1-3, 6, 9, 10, 12-14, 18, 20, 21, 26 27, and 31-35 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 15-17, 19, 23-25, and 28-30 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonti et al. in view of Friedmann et al. and further in view of Buhrmann et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Buhrmann et al. discloses a method and apparatus for providing telecommunication services based on a subscriber profile updated by a personal information manager. A subscriber enters personal information data into a personal information manager that either automatically, or based on an additional profile request entered by the subscriber, generates profile update data associated with the personal information data. The personal information manager transmits the profile update data to a database in the telecommunication system where it is stored. A subscriber profile data stored therein is then updated in accordance with the subscriber profile update data.

Regarding independent claim 24, Applicants submit that neither Sonti et al., Friedmann et al., nor Buhrmann et al., disclose, suggest, or render obvious the limitations in the combination of claim 24 of, inter alia, a communication system that includes a mobile station operatively connected to a base station where the mobile

station has the capability for sensing at least one external parameter, or a configuration of communication services for the mobile station being automatically chosen from a plurality of configurations available within the communication system and related to the mobile station based on the sensed at least one external parameter meeting a pre-defined criterion definable at the mobile station. As noted previously, neither Sonti et al. or Friedman et al. disclose or suggest these limitations in the claims of the present application. Moreover, Buhrmann et al. does not disclose or suggest anything related to sensing an external parameter, or automatically choosing a configuration of communication services for the mobile station from a plurality of configurations related to the mobile station based on the sensed at least one external parameter meeting a predefined criterion definable at the mobile station.

Regarding claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 15-17, 19, 23, 25, and 28-30, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 1, 18, 24 and 27 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding these independent claims. Applicants submit that Buhrmann et al. does not overcome the substantial defects noted previously regarding Sonti et al. and Friedman et al.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the limitations in the combination of claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 15-17, 19, 23, 25, and 28-30 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonti et al. in view of Friedmann et al. and further in view of Hagar et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hagar et al. discloses a cordless phone data logger where a remote data logging and telecommunication system utilizes a cordless telephone as a convenient two-way wireless link between a location of data collection and storage and a distant station. The distant station can command the data logging system to log, read or change logging protocols. Password and code word protection is available for the system.

Applicants submit that claim 22 is dependent on independent claim 1 and, therefore, is patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding this independent claim. Applicants submit that Hagar et al. does not overcome the substantial defects noted previously regarding Sonti et al. and Friedmann et al.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the limitations in the combination of claim 22 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-35 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing case No. 367.37732CX1) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Twice Amended) A method of [automatically]configuring communication services for a subscriber within a communication system, comprising:

sensing an external parameter;

choosing for the particular subscriber, a configuration of communication services from a plurality of configurations available within the communication system; and

using the chosen configuration [in respect of]to define a current configuration of communication services available to the subscriber,

wherein said choosing of a configuration of communication services is performed automatically in dependence on the sensed external parameter meeting a pre-defined criterion definable by the subscriber or a service provider of the communication system[and the sensed external parameter].

2. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of configurations is [dependent upon]specific to the subscriber.

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pre-defined criterion is [dependent upon] specific to the subscriber.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the choosing of a configuration of communication services is performed each time a call is made.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of configurations [are] is ranked in order of priority such that one of relatively higher priority which satisfies the predefined criterion is used before one of relatively lower priority which also satisfies the predefined criterion.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a predetermined configuration of communication services is designated to be used in the event that no [other]configurations meet the pre-defined criterion.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the automatic choosing [process]of a configuration of communication services may be [manually] overridden to allow selection [use]or registration of a particular configuration from said plurality of configurations.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein selection [use]or registration of a certain configuration is not permitted according to a predefined rule.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of configurations [are]is stored in a central database of [a]the communication system.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the central database is a Home Location Register of a GSM system.

11. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensed external parameter is indicative of a date, the predefined criterion is a date-dependent [upon the date]criterion and the choosing of a configuration of communication services is performed automatically in dependence on the sensed external parameter meeting the date-dependent criterion.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensed external parameter is indicative of a time, the predefined criterion is a time-dependent [upon the time]criterion and the choosing of a configuration of communication services is performed automatically in dependence on the sensed external parameter meeting the date-dependent criterion.

13. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensed external parameter is indicative of a location of the mobile station, the predefined criterion is a location-dependent [upon the location of the mobile station]criterion and the choosing of a configuration of communication services is performed automatically in dependence on the sensed external parameter meeting the location-dependent criterion.

17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a configuration of communication service is chosen automatically according to a plurality of predefined criteria.

18. (Twice Amended) An apparatus, for use in a communication system, comprising:

a register of subscribers to the communication system;

a register of alternate configurations of communication services available within the communication system;

sensing means for sensing an external parameter;

means for automatically choosing one of the alternative configurations of communication services available within the communication system for a particular subscriber in response to [said sensing means] the sensed external parameter meeting [and] a pre-defined criterion definable by the particular subscriber; and

means for using the chosen configuration [in respect of a]of communication services to define a current configuration of communication services available to the particular subscriber.

19. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said registers form part of the Home Location register of a GSM communication system.

20. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the[register of] alternative configurations of communications services [is]are [associated with]specific to the particular subscriber.

21. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the pre-defined criterion is [associated with]specific to the particular subscriber.

24. (Amended) A communication system comprising:

 a Mobile Services Switching Center (MSC), the MSC including a Home Location Register (HLR);

 a base station controller operatively connected to the MSC;

 a base station operatively connected to the base station controller; and

 a mobile station operatively connected to the base station, the mobile station having capability for sensing at least one external parameter, a configuration of communication services for the mobile station being automatically chosen from a plurality of configurations available within the communication system and related to the mobile station based on the sensed at least one external parameter meeting a pre-defined criterion definable at the mobile[station and the sensed at least one external parameter].

26. (Amended) An apparatus in a communication system comprising:

 sensing means for sensing at least one external parameter;

 register means for storing predefined criteria[for a mobile station]; and

 processing means for automatically choosing a configuration for the mobile station available within the communication system and related to the mobile station based on the sensed at least one external parameter [and] meeting the predefined criterion.

27. (Amended) A method of [automatically]configuring communication services for a subscriber within a communication system, comprising:

sensing an external parameter;
choosing for the particular subscriber, a profile available within the communication system, said profile [having]defining a plurality of individual service arrangements specific to the particular subscriber; and
using the chosen profile [in respect of]or the subscriber,
wherein said choosing of a profile is performed automatically in dependence on the sensed external parameter meeting a pre-defined criterion definable by the particular subscriber or a service provider of the communication system[and the sensed external parameter].